



# EM Recovery NEWS FLASH

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## Recovery Act Workers Add Time Capsule Before Sealing Reactor for Hundreds of Years

**AIKEN, S.C.** – American Recovery and Reinvestment Act workers at the Savannah River Site (SRS) placed a time capsule with a cache of timely news items inside a former nuclear reactor this week before sealing the 300,000-square foot facility shut for hundreds of years to allow radioactivity to naturally decay.

The capsule, about the size of a five-gallon bucket, contained photos of DOE Secretary Steven Chu and President Obama, as well as an the site's strategic plan and an interactive CD on its history. Recovery Act team members also signed an aerial photo of the nearly six-decade-old P Reactor, and included it in the capsule.

About 60 people gathered to watch DOE-Savannah River Manager Dr. David Moody, and Marc Sharpe, a senior reactor operator at the P Reactor in the 1980s, place the capsule in the southwest corner of the reactor stack area. In the future, the items will provide a glimpse of SRS's mission and a sign of the times in the U.S.

Sharpe helped shut down the Cold War reactor in 1988.

"You can't help standing back and seeing how things used to be. When you knew it in its heyday, everything was working. The control room was all lit up," Sharpe said of the reactor.

Moody credited Recovery Act workers for completing the successful in-situ decommissioning project under budget and ahead of schedule. Workers filled both the P and R reactors with more than 260,000 cubic yards of a cement-like material called grout — which would fill 80 Olympic-size swimming pools. Each reactor occupies more than 300,000 square feet of space.

The facilities will undergo long-term, post-closure care, maintenance, and monitoring.

The Recovery Act provided \$1.6 billion to accelerate the Cold War cleanup at SRS.



SRS employee Marc Sharpe, who was a senior reactor operator at P Reactor in the mid-1980s, carries a time capsule containing items on SRS and national events into P Reactor. Dr. David Moody, manager, DOE-Savannah River, walks behind Sharpe.



SRS employee Marc Sharpe, left, and Dr. David Moody, manager, DOE-Savannah River, were the last people to leave the P Reactor before its opening was welded shut.



Workers weld shut the remaining opening of the P Reactor building

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EM Recovery Act Work, Visit Us on the Web:

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